

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01135 160743Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

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P 160434Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2527

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CONCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSK PRIORITY

UNCLAS SEOUL 1135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MAR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROK-NK FISHING BOAT INCIDENT

1. KOREAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS PLAYED ROK-NORTH KOREAN FISHING BOAT INCIDENT UNDER FIVE AND SIX COLUMN HEADLINES MORNING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16. RECOUNTING FACTS SUBSTANTIALLY AS REPORTED IN UNC OPERATIONAL SITREPS, ALL PAPERS SAY NORTH KOREAN ATTACK TOOK PLACE THIRTY MILES WEST OF SOUTH KOREAN HELD PAENGYONG-DO, THAT ONE SOUTH KOREAN TRAWLER SUNK WHILE THE OTHER LAST REPORTED BEING ESCORTED NORTH, AND THAT OF 25 CREWMEN ON TWO VESSELS 11 REPORTED MISSING AND REMAINING 14 TAKEN NORTH.

2. HANKUK ILBO QUOTES DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT AS SAYING "SUCH A BARBAROUS ACT BY THE NORTH KOREAN 'PUPPET' REGIME AS SHELLING PEACEFULLY OPERATING UNARMED FISHING BOATS AND MURDERING INNOCENT PEOPLE COULD NOT BE TOLERATED." HANKUK NOTES THAT IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO REFER TO NORTH KOREA AS "PUPPET" SINCE THE TWO KOREAN SIDES HAD STARTED DETENT TALKS.

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3. IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE ARTICLES ALL PAPERS REPORTED HOT LINE DEMAND BY ACTING ROKG CO-CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE CHANG KEY-YOUNG THAT NORTH KOREA IMMEDIATELY RELEASE FISHERMEN AND THEIR BOAT. CHANG QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PANMUMJOM SIDE OBVIOUSLY VIOLATED JULY 4 COMMUNIQUE AND MUST ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESULT OF ITS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

4. KOREAN HERALD ALSO REPORTS DRP AND OPPOSITION PARTY NDP INDIGNATION OVER "BARBAROUS NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATIONS." DRP VICE FLOOR LEADER PAK CHOL SAID "WE SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE RESOLUTE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST COMMUNIST NORTH." NDP HAS CHARACTERIZED INCIDENT AS AN INHUMANITARIAN AND BRUTAL ACTION THAT WILL ONLY INCITE THE INDIGNATION OF THE PEOPLE.

5. MORNING RADIO BROADCASTS FEBRUARY 16 HAVE PICKED UP NORTH KOREA'S REJECTION OVER HOT LINE OF SOUTH KOREAN CHARGES (REPORTED SEPTTEL).
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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